

CARTSNEWS

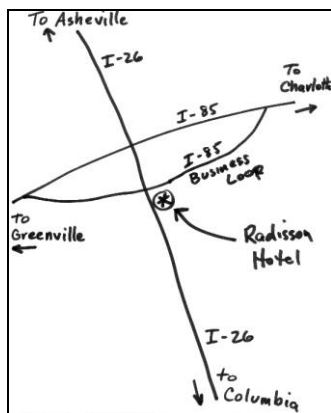
The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #12

November 2006

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First and foremost, remember the meeting November 11 in Spartanburg. You will see more Carolina tokens (as well as tokens from all over) at a CARTS meeting than you will find at any other gathering east of the Mississippi. And you may even see more Carolina tokens on the 11th than you could find at the yearly national token meeting sponsored by NTCA. Here's another copy of the map which was included in the August issue.



Second, (yes it's the editorial plea) your club needs your input. Write up an article – if you want to send in something rough I'll be happy to do my best at "smoothing" it out. Or, send in copy for a free ad – such a deal! Or, let the rest of us know about that terrific find you made.

Third, send in your 2007 dues to Bob King. If you wait until January you might forget. (The February issue will contain a financial report, but briefly, CARTS is solvent but not flush!)

Finally, we need to grow. There must be at least a couple hundred people interested in tokens from the two Carolinas. If we each could recruit just one of those people not currently a member CARTS would reach a healthy size.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all members of CARTS. It's been a nice autumn so far here in the Midlands of South Carolina, and in only a few days I'll be making the trip to the Piedmont area for our biannual token gathering. I sure hope that you will be able to make that trip also. Our meeting will be held on Saturday, November 11th (9AM to 1PM) at the Radisson Hotel in Spartanburg. The hotel is located in a very conspicuous place at the intersection of Interstate 26 and Interstate 85 Business Loop, but it is a little tricky to negotiate the exit arrangement for the hotel, so if you are coming it may be best to consult the driving directions that are printed elsewhere in this issue and not just depend on the map that I have drawn. I hope to see everyone there. On another note, I would also like to announce that CARTS is planning on having an informal gathering at the upcoming ANA coin show in Charlotte in March of 2007. Look for more details in the next issue of the newsletter.

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro, President of CARTS

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

UNION

SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

William M. Graham
106 Hidden Hill Road • Union, SC 29379-9105
864-427-9560 WMG@NUVOX.NET

The William M. Bird & Co. Award Medal

Tony Chibbaro
(CM #2)

This article will showcase a silver award medal that was presented to one of the oldest sellers of building materials in the state of South Carolina.



Pictured above is a silver award medal that was presented by the Agricultural Society of South Carolina to William M. Bird & Company of Charleston in December of 1880. The obverse of the medal pictures a

cotton plant growing to the left of a sheaf of rice (at that time the state's two most important agricultural products) inside an inscription which reads "The Agricultural Society of So Ca, Founded Aug. 24th 1785." The reverse features the partially engraved / partially diestruck inscription "Charleston Industrial Exhibition, Awarded to W.M. Bird & Co. for Howes Improved Scales, Charleston, S.C., Dec. 6 to 17, 1880." The medal measures 37.5 mm in diameter and weighs 25.3 grams.

The Agricultural Society of South Carolina was established in Charleston in 1785 as the South Carolina Society for Promoting and Improving Agriculture and Other Rural Concerns. Ten years later the organization was incorporated under the name "The Agricultural Society of South Carolina." The group's first president was Thomas Heyward, Jr., who prominently figured in the state's history and was one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence. The group's main mission was the promotion of agriculture and industrial pursuits throughout the state and one of the ways it did so was the sponsorship of the yearly Charleston Industrial Exposition. Also it is to be noted that the society should not be confused with organizations of similar names such as the South Carolina Agricultural Society (founded in Columbia in 1818) or the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society of South Carolina (responsible for the establishment of the South Carolina State Fair).

The recipient of the medal was the Charleston firm that went by the name of William M. Bird & Company. This firm was founded in 1865 by William M. Bird, a native of Charleston who was a blockade runner during the Civil War. Bird had been captured and imprisoned in Boston during the war and when he returned to Charleston after the cessation of hostilities he was confronted by a city in ruins. In September of 1865 he founded William M. Bird & Company to supply building materials to help rebuild the South. Interestingly the company is still in business in 2006, over 140 years later, and continues to be engaged in sales of building materials as a wholesale distributor of all types of floor coverings. In 1880, when they received the pictured award medal, the R.G. Dun mercantile directory listed the business as a retailer of paints, oils, and painting supplies.

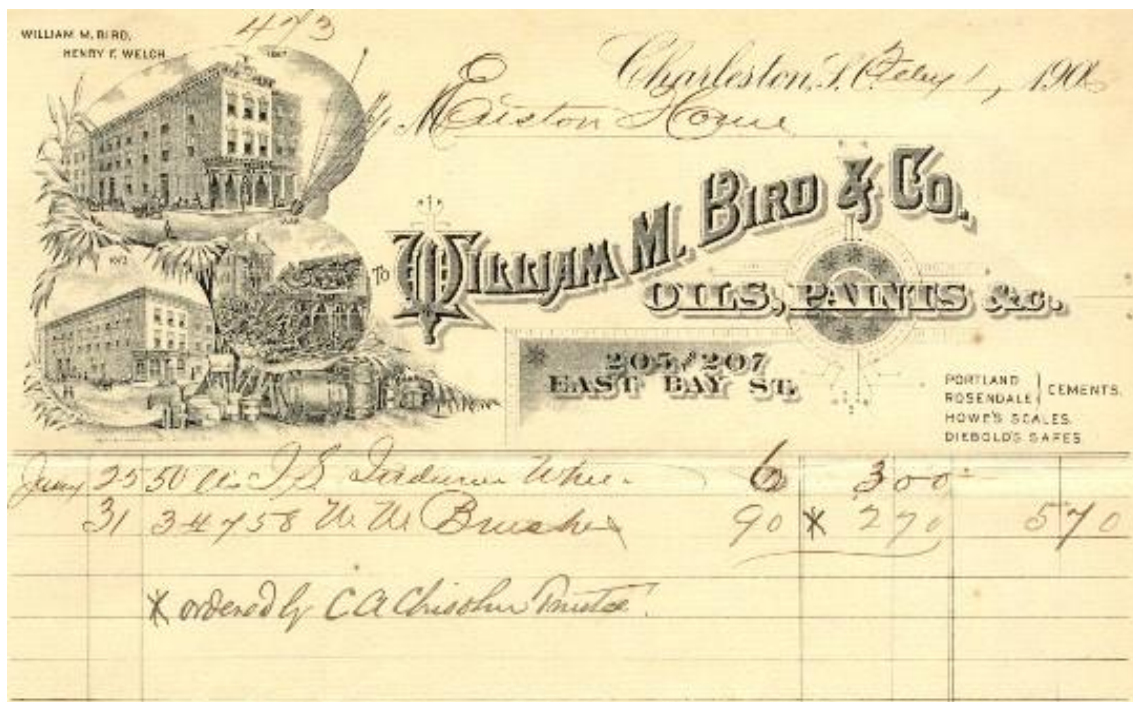


William M. Bird, circa 1900.

In 1886, the company was housed in a building on East Bay Street when the Charleston earthquake shook the entire Lowcountry. On August 31st of that year a magnitude 7.3 quake ravaged the city, killing 60 people and damaging 90% of all the brick structures. Some buildings suffered only minor damage, but many were completely destroyed, including the building at 205 East Bay Street which housed the retail business of William M. Bird & Company.



Post-earthquake photograph of William M. Bird & Co's. building at 205 East Bay Street.



William M. Bird & Co. billhead dated Feb. 1, 1906.
(Note the pre- and post-earthquake engravings at the upper left.)

Bird's business was strong enough to survive the earthquake and the building at 205 East Bay was rebuilt. The company continued to grow and in 1957 opened a new expanded headquarters at 1142 East Bay Street. Today the company's headquarters is located at 4210 Azalea Drive in Charleston, but the company also has operations in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee and is one of the fastest growing floor covering distributors in the South.



In 1955, William M. Bird & Company celebrated its 90th year in business by issuing this encased Washington Quarter.

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Sources:

William M. Bird & Company website - www.wmbird.com

Bird & Company Opens New Plant, *Charleston News & Courier*, October 27, 1957

S.C. Study Aims to Cut Quake Deaths, Damage, *The State*, February 6, 2002

A (POSSIBLY) NEW FIND

Don Bailey
(CM #21)

During the past six months or so there have appeared on eBay many 2½ cent tokens of the Erlanger Cotton Mills Co. in Lexington, NC. Thus when yet one more appeared in early September the token drew almost no attention. But for some reason I looked at the photo and saw what I believe to be an uncommon and (possibly) unknown variety.



(star) Erlanger Cotton Mills Co. (star) / 2½ / Lexington, N. C. // (Orco Reverse) – R, Wm, 18mm

At first only the fact that the “N” in “N. C” is reversed caught my eye. But there are four significant differences between this piece and the more common one shown below.



Erlanger Cotton mills Co. / 2 ½ ¢ / Lexington, / N. C. // (Orco Reverse) – R, Br, 23mm.

First of course is the difference in size. Then there is the difference in composition, the difference in the layout of the town and state names, and the fact that the smaller token does not use the cent symbol. But maybe you have also noticed that there are no star symbols used in the obverse of the larger token.

Soon perhaps we will have a North Carolina catalog and it will be easier to determine if a find is indeed new.

New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro
(CM #2)

I have only two new finds to report in this issue. One is a maverick token that came from eBay and the other one I picked up in a dealer's junk box at a coin show. I will mention the eBay listing first, as it is probably the more interesting of the two. The obverse reads as such: DAVIDSON LUMBER CO. (incuse) / 1 / BUNCH / SHINGLES. The reverse is blank except for a toothed border. The token is made of brass and measures 29 mm.



I was unaware of the existence of this token until it popped up on eBay recently, with a suggestion in the body of the listing that the token might originate from one of the Southeastern states. So I did a bit of research in my library of business directories and came up with the following. The Davidson Lumber Company was first listed in the 1909 Dun as operating a sawmill in Camden, SC. The 1910 Polk's Lumber directory showed that the mill was actually located in Kershaw, however. The 1912 Lumbermen's Credit Assn. directory clears up this discrepancy by reporting that the headquarters of the company was located in Camden, with the mill at Kershaw. The company reportedly had two circular sawmills capable of cutting 50,000 board feet per day. The output was primarily yellow pine, gum, and poplar lumber. In 1917 the name of the company was changed to LeRoy S. Davidson & Company, and it operated as such until 1925. Then the company was reorganized as the Davidson Lumber Corporation, but only operated for another year or so before disappearing from the business directories altogether.

The second new find came in August at a coin show. I was very happy when I added it to my collection, because it is the first token I have acquired from Mount Pleasant even though there are now four different tokens known from that town. The token reads: S.B. COOK /

BUTCHER, / STATION / 2, / MT. PLEASANT, S.C. // GOOD FOR / 5 / IN TRADE. The token is made of brass and measures 21 mm. Business directories reveal that Cook was in the grocery and meat business from 1913 to 1915.



New Find from North Carolina

Bob King
(CM #31)

"I'd rather be lucky than good." I believe everyone can say that sometime in their life and recently I said it. While looking for information on the Ingle Token "W.L. Robertson" from Olin, NC in Iredell County, I found the grandson of W.L. Robertson and asked if he knew anything about his grandfather's business or tokens used. He invited me to his house to see the tokens. I was thrilled and visited him the same week. When I arrived he showed me the token pictured in this article and two other denominations. I hadn't seen this token before and didn't have any tokens from Charles listed in my book. My host didn't know anything about the W.L. Robertson Tokens from Olin and didn't know that his grandfather owned two stores. He gave me the token pictured here since he had two of this denomination; so I got a rare token from a tiny community previously unknown to me. Later I found information on the W.L. Robertson Token but I still haven't seen one.



ROBERTSON'S CASH STORE / CHARLES, / N.C. //
(STAR) GOOD FOR (STAR) / 25 / -IN- /
MERCHANDISE – Rd, Al, 27mm

MYSTERY SOLVED

Bob King
(CM #31)

In the May 2005 Edition of *CARTSNEWS* I entered the article "Another Maverick Mystery" about the Frank E. Block Lunch Room Token. This business is listed in Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, NC in Dun and Bradstreet. Unfortunately, the Charlotte location was a wholesale outlet for the business and no lunch room was on site. This means we lose this one to Atlanta, Georgia. I found the necessary information at the main library in Charlotte where a good number of city directories are available for research.



I DON'T NEED ANY COMMON NORTH CAROLINA TOKENS! IF YOU HAVE A NORTH CAROLINA TOKEN I NEED AND IT IS A GOOD ONE, I WILL PAY COMMENSURATE.

Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712-4260, 828-883-8028, tokenaddict@citcom.net

Directions to CARTS Meeting

Place: Tulipa Room, Radisson Hotel, 9027 Fairforest Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301

Time: 9AM to 1PM, Saturday, November 11, 2006

Driving Directions:

From Columbia:

1. Take I-26 West toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 19-B onto I-85 Business Loop North toward Spartanburg, go 0.3 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn right onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.2 miles
5. Turn right again as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

From Asheville:

1. Take I-26 East toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 19-B onto I-85 Business Loop North toward Spartanburg, go 0.5 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn right onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.2 miles
5. Turn right again as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

From Greenville:

1. Take I-85 North toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 69 onto I-85 Business Loop North toward Spartanburg, go 2.1 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn right onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.2 miles
5. Turn right again as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

From Charlotte:

1. Take I-85 South toward Spartanburg
2. Take exit 77 onto I-85 Business Loop South toward Spartanburg, go 6.1 miles
3. Take exit 2-C
4. Turn left onto Fairforest Rd., go 0.4 miles
5. Turn right as soon as you pass the Cracker Barrel parking lot, follow driveway approximately one tenth of a mile into the Radisson parking lot.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

WANTED: RARE SOUTH CAROLINA TRADE TOKENS FOR MY COLLECTION. I have trading material from most states. Check out my website at: www.angelfire.com/sc/sctokens. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (803-252-1881) chibbaro@mindspring.com

PEANUT TOKENS: I will pay top dollar for tokens I need from National Spanish Peanut Co, Columbian Peanut Company, Franklin Peanut Company, Tom's, and others. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729 or ELADON@BRINET.COM.

WILL PAY \$150.00 FOR ANY CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TOKEN FROM NORTH CAROLINA THAT I DON'T HAVE. Have great information on all C.C.C. Camps located in N.C. if you need help with an attribution. Bob King, 709 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712-4260, 828-883-8028, tokenaddict@citcom.net

UNION, SOUTH CAROLINA TOKENS, POSTCARDS, AND PAPER MONEY wanted. Paying top prices for needed material. Bill Graham, 106 Hidden Hill Road, Union, SC, 29379-9105. Tel: 864-427-9560, email: wmg@nuvox.net.

ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, NEW FIND ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLASSIFIED AND/OR PAID ADS. Only you can make your club better. Send them in to your editor!

MISCELLEANOUS

AMUSEMENT TOKENS -- Free via EMail, updated listing of all known amusement tokens for North and South Carolina in MS Word format - also available on a CD-ROM for \$5 postpaid. Bob Schopp, 16 Sanbert Circle, Trenton, NJ 08690, RDSchopp@aol.com.

CARTS Membership and Dues: Membership in CARTS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.